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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. DELAY].

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 18, 1997.

I hereby designate the Honorable TOM DELAY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 21, 1997, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority and minority leader limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. HILLIARD] for 5 minutes.

ALEXIS HERMAN WILL BE A GREAT SECRETARY

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to stand before this House this day on behalf of my good friend and native Alabamian, Ms. Alexis Herman. At the present time her confirmation is before the U.S. Senate as Secretary of Labor. Alexis is the daughter of a single parent. She has labored her entire life working to help people stay employed and off welfare.

As President Clinton's assistant, she was a leader in making sure that

women, Hispanics, African-Americans were equally involved in our Nation's agenda. She is a mover. She is a shaker. She has the credentials, the desires, the integrity, the purpose, the intellect, the capability, the personality and the grace to be Secretary of Labor. And in that respect, Mr. Speaker, I recommend her confirmation.

She appears as an American with qualifications of an all-American combination. Her background is a modern-day equivalent of being born in a log cabin, and her career successes mirror that of a Wall Street broker. That is an all-American combination.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON].

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Alabama for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, to live the life of a nun these days is not good enough if you want to serve your country. That is what Alexis Herman, the President's nominee to be Secretary of Labor, wanted to be. It is our good fortune that she decided to serve her country in this way.

To live a righteous life is not good enough. That is what Alexis Herman has done. Moreover, Mr. Speaker, Alexis Herman has lived a life which groomed her for this agency. When she was a younger woman, she served in a number of capacities in the Labor Department, in the Women's Bureau, and as assistant to Ray Marshall, who was then Secretary.

The Senate has been on a fishing expedition for 3 months now. It has come up empty. I find very few people in this life whose integrity I would personally vouch for. Alexis Herman is one of those people. I have seen this nominee up close. It is difficult to think of any American who would serve her country better as Secretary of Labor. I hope that the other body will soon recognize this and will in fact vote her to be the

Secretary of Labor of the United States of America.

I thank the gentleman for yielding to me, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California [Ms. WOOLSEY].

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, today is the first day of the confirmation hearings for Alexis Herman, a real American success story. I commend the President for choosing this outstanding woman for Secretary of Labor. Ms. Herman has devoted her life to public service. Ms. Herman has been involved in job placement programs throughout her career. Some of her accomplishments include leadership of the black women's employment program of Atlanta and director of the Women's Bureau at the Department of Labor during the Carter administration.

More recently, Mr. Speaker, Alexis Herman worked closely with former Commerce Secretary, the late Ron Brown. She made the White House Office of Public Liaison a dynamic part of the President's office. Throughout Alexis Herman's career, she has made equal opportunity for women and minorities a top priority.

I urge the other body to confirm Alexis Herman without delay. She is a great woman and a great role model for all of us.

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands [Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN].

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. HILLIARD] for organizing this special order and affording me this time to say a few words in recognition and support of Alexis Herman, President Clinton's nominee for Secretary of Labor.

At this time, when America is challenged to meet the needs of the unemployed and underemployed and to bring training and job opportunities, not only to these, but to the millions who

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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